

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 10 to page 3, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

An example of conventional ball-stud joints is shown in FIG. 9. The prior ball-stud joint is envisaged to connect a major body 43 to any counterpart, which could be considered to constitute a first counterpart, including a lever member, arm member and so on through a ball stud 41. To this end, the ball stud 41 has a ball 47 that fits for pivoting movement into a ball socket 50 formed in the major body 43, and also has a rod or stud 45 that extends through a hole 51 in the counterpart 42, which could be considered to constitute a second counterpart, and then comes into engagement by means of riveting an extremity of the stud 45 against the counterpart 42 to joint the ball stud 41 together with the counterpart 42. The stud 45 of the ball stud 41 has a flange 44 that cooperates with the riveted head 46 formed on the plain end of the stud 45 by caulking or riveting to hold the lever member 42 between them. The riveting operation is carried out by hammering or pressing an upper die jig 49 against a lower die jig 48 on which the ball 47 of the ball stud 41 lies, thereby forming the plain end of the stud 45 into the riveted head 46.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, line 22 to page 15, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

The joint of the present invention is of the type comprised of a ball stud 1 having at one end thereof a spherical bearing that fits into a major body 3 while at the other end thereof to be connected to any counterpart 2,

constituting a second counterpart. The ball stud 1 extends in a direction normal to an axial direction of the major body 3, and is allowed to not only turn but also swivel or pivot in and out relatively to the major body 3. The ball stud 1 includes a ball 7 that fits for pivoting movement into a ball socket 12 in the major body 3, a stud or rod 5 having one end 19 merging integrally into the ball 7 and the opposite end 21 terminating into a plain end that will undergo any riveting operation into a riveted head 6 to fasten the stud 5 to any counterpart 2, and an annular flange 4 integral to the stud 5 to provide an abutment 18 against which the counterpart 2 can come into engagement. The stud 5, moreover, has a necked area 35 close to the ball 7 and less in diameter than the ball 7, a retainer 14 made larger in diameter than the necked area 35 to keep a mouth of opening 27 of a dust proof cover 26 in place, and an annular groove 11 into which the mouth 27 of the dust proof cover 26 fits firmly.

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, line 20 to page 16, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

The major body 3 is made therein with the ball socket 12 into which the ball 7 of the ball stud 1 fits to make it possible to cause the ball stud 1 to pivot relatively to the major body 3. A retainer ring 25 is installed in an ingress port 23 of the ball socket 12 to surround an outside surface 24 of the ball 7 to make sure of connection of the ball stud 1 with the major body 3. The ball 7 of the ball stud 1 fits into the ball socket 12 in the major body 3 through the ingress port 23 while the retainer ring 25 is arranged to keep the ball stud 1 against falling away from the major body 3 and

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further bear the load. The major body 3, ball stud 1 and retainer ring 25 are all made of steel. Especially, the major body made of steel rather than aluminum alloys is made large in stiffness, in load resistant against falling away and also in strength resistant against bending. Besides the ball socket 12 made open in the direction normal to the axial direction of the major body 3, there is provided a threaded hole 34 in the major body 3, which extends axially to be opened to any one of the axially opposed ends to ~~joint~~connect the major body 3 to ~~another~~a first counterpart, not shown, such as any rod.